

Victims' Compensation Assistance Program Advisory Council

**June 25, 2018
VCAP Offices
Wilmington, DE**

Members Present: Deb Reed, Chair, police advocate; Kristin Froehlich, mental health profession; Jane Curschmann, NCC public member; Erica Davis, DV Task Force; Annamarie McDermott, medical profession; Patty Dailey Lewis, City of Wilmington public member; Nancy McGee, Sexual Assault Network of Delaware; Melissa Pennachi, Victim's Rights Task Force.

Nonmembers Present: Paige Schmittinger, Executive Director and VCAP DAG Dirk Durstein

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 2:05pm. Introductions were made.

Approval of the Minutes

Minutes were approved from the January 17, 2018 meeting with one minor change.

Financial Report

Paige Schmittinger handed out and reviewed the financial report.

Restitution and Surcharge Information

Paige Schmittinger presented information on VCAP's revenue and restitution collection. VCAP revenue for FY18 is down. There is a significant need for VCAP to focus efforts on restitution and recovery. The Council supports this need.

Update on Regulation Change

At the January 2018 meeting, the Council voted in favor of a regulation change as it pertains to unlicensed therapists who provide counseling services that are billed to VCAP, and paying Medicare/Medicaid rates to those providers who are not paneled with Medicare/Medicaid but see patients who have that insurance. The regulation change went through the public comment period and was published in the May *Register*.

Membership vacancy

There is still a membership vacancy for the Kent County seat. The expiration of Kristin Froehlich's term creates another vacancy in the mental health profession.

Funeral and Burial Benefits

Paige Schmittinger discussed the potential need to increase the funeral and burial benefit. The Council wants to make sure that eligible families can have a funeral and burial without having to pay anything out-of-pocket unless they want to. The Council requested that Executive Director Paige Schmittinger do research to ascertain what the minimum cost for a funeral and burial would be. The Council also requested that Executive Director Paige Schmittinger do research into the funeral and burial benefit amounts nationwide.

Trends in Victims Compensation

Paige Schmittinger discussed the need for VCAP to establish policies and procedures for assisting victims of human trafficking. Paige Schmittinger will serve on the victims' services subcommittee of the newly established Human Trafficking Interagency Coordinating Council. There was discussion regarding the potential need for legislative change so victims of human trafficking are eligible under VCAP's statute.

Paige Schmittinger also discussed the need for VCAP to establish policies and procedures if there is a mass violence event in the State of Delaware.

Both of these topics are on the agenda for the National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards National Conference in August. Information obtained at the conference will be presented at the next Advisory Council meeting and Council members will also brainstorm ideas for discussion at the next meeting.

Public Comment

None.